GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2737
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement signed in 1990-91 between India and Bangladesh on the question of illegal migrants is still in force;

(b) if so, the details of its implementation; and

(c) the steps taken for resolving the outstanding issues between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (c) The Government of India has been taking up the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh regularly at various meetings. At the first India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held in New Delhi from March 29-31, 1994 it was agreed to revive the ground arrangements of 1991 between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles to deal with the cases of illegal cross border movement. These arrangements were amended during the second Joint Working Group meeting held in Dhaka from April 19-21, 1995 and provide for the return of persons under various specified circumstances. During the Home Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi in April 2000 and Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh held in Delhi in December 2000,and the Director General-level meeting between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles in Delhi in March 28 to April 01, 2001, this issue has been discussed. Both sides agreed to adhere to the specific procedures agreed upon during the second JWG meeting.As friendly neighbours, both countries are committed to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue.